

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 stand rejected in this Office Action.

Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview on January 9, 2007 to discuss proposed amendments to the claims.

Drawings

Figures 1-30 are objected to because the figures contain references to WO 00/38149 PCT/US99/02737 and Substitute Sheet (Rule 26).

Applicant is amending the Figures 1-30 to remove references to WO 00/38149, PCT/US99/02737. No new subject matter is added. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections.

Specification

The specification is objected to because pages 1-43 contain references to WO 00/38149 PCT/US99/02737 and Substitute Sheet (Rule 26).

Applicant is amending pages 1-43 to remove references to WO 00/38149, PCT/US99/02737. No new subject matter is added. Applicant requests withdrawal of the objections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 are rejected under 103 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,161 (Purcell), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,727,950 (Cook) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,372,507 (Goleh).

Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the feature of “managing information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of service through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in

a plurality of development phases of the simulation **that include a test phase, the test phase being performed to verify that the simulation functions properly.**" (Emphasis added.) The amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, the specification discloses components that support activities during four phases of BusSim development. (Page 37 – page 9, line 7.) The specification further discloses development cycle activities in the design phase, build phase, test phase, and execution phase. (Page 5, line 27- page 7, line 2.)

The Office Action admits that (Page 6, lines 131-134.):

The combination of Purcell and Goleh fails to explicitly teach: -(c) wherein each component encapsulates a behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation.

However, the Office Action alleges that Cook teaches (Page 8 , line195 – page 9, line 223.):

... - (c) managing information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates a behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation (C5-63 especially "FIG. 2A also shows an exemplary screen layout ... preferably partitioned so that principal components of this invention are displayed; ... Materials area 220 is for the instructional materials, tools, and communication materials to present visual display objects and for these components to receive interactive input. ... The system area at top includes toolbar 218 for selecting particular available system components. In particular, always available on this toolbar are selection icons 219 for the calendar and scheduling tool. ... This software provides, among other services, support for I/O devices attached to the client, a file system with cache control, lower level network protocols, such as TCP/IP and ATM, and higher-level network protocols, such as HTTP V2.0. Basic shared ABI system capabilities are provided by executive software 223. ... Such downloading can utilize higher level network transfer protocols, or alternatively, directly use lower network protocols." C16 L50-C17 L40 and "Instructional Materials: the components of a course of instruction ... to the student." C9 L55-63 and "Tools Data: the content ... Virtual Tutor: the ABI system components acting together to emulate a human tutor; ... personal tutor" C10 L25-35 and "§5.1.1 Functional Components ... from the system" C10 L41-C11 L42 and "This optional capability serves ... the operating system components to maintain some form of version control of the read-only data. ... access the ABI system services from any available client system at any time by simply downloading the student data object to that client system." C16 L15-30); The table in Figure 2A allows a user access to various components of the invention through a published user interface. These components clearly encapsulate behaviors and data that are essential to providing

associated services as disclosed in the above references and throughout the disclosure of the invention. ...

Cook merely discloses an already-established system that provides individualized computer-assisted instruction for a student. However, Cook fails to even suggest the feature of "wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of service through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation that include a test phase, the test phase being performed to verify that the simulation functions properly." Moreover, Purcell and Goleh fail remedy the deficiencies of Cook.

Claim 10 includes the similar feature of "logic that manages information flow utilizing a table of components to provide a simulation of the actual work environment during the presentation, wherein each component encapsulates behavior and data necessary to support a related set of services through a published interface, each said component supporting activities in a plurality of development phases of the simulation that include a test phase, the test phase being performed to verify that the simulation functions properly" and is not suggested by the combination of Purcell, Cook, and Goleh for at least the above reasons. Moreover, claims 2, 4-9, 11, and 13-18 ultimately depend from independent claims 1 and 10. Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18.

Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purcell, Cook, Goleh as applied to claims 1-2, 4-11, and 13-18 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,847,784 (Clancey).

Claims 3 and 12 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10. Because Clancey does not remedy the deficiencies of Purcell, Cook, and Goleh, claims 3 and 12 -3 are patentable for at least the above reasons.

All objections and rejections have been addressed. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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